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H GORDON SHIELDS  
7830 N 23RD AVENUE  
PHOENIX AZ 85021

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**DEC 05 2006**

**OFFICE OF PETITIONS**

In re Patent No. 6,163,256 :  
Issued: 19 December, 2000 :  
Application No. 09/398,274 : DECISION ON PETITION  
Filed: 20 September, 1999 :  
For: BRAKE LIGHT APPARATUS :

This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR 1.378(c),<sup>1</sup> filed on 3 October, 2005, to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of a maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The Office apologizes for the delay in responding to the present petition and regrets any inconvenience to petitioners.<sup>2</sup>

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The patent issued on 19 December, 2000. The window for payment of the first maintenance fee installment with a surcharge closed on 20 December, 2004. Therefore, since this petition was filed within twenty-four (24) months of the six-month grace period provided in 37 CFR 1.362(e), this petition was timely filed under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.378(c).

Accordingly, the maintenance fee in this case is hereby accepted and the above-identified patent is hereby reinstated as of the mail date of this decision.

The address listed on the petition is different than the correspondence address of record. A courtesy copy of this decision is being mailed to the address noted on the petition. However, until otherwise instructed, all future correspondence

<sup>1</sup> 37 CFR 1.378(c) provides that a petition to accept an unintentionally delayed payment of a maintenance fee must be filed within twenty-four months of the six-month grace period provided in § 1.362(e) and must include:

- (1) The required maintenance fee set forth in § 1.20(e) through (g);
- (2) The surcharge set forth in § 1.20(i)(2); and
- (3) A statement that the delay in payment of the maintenance fee was

unintentional.

<sup>2</sup> It is noted that the petition referenced the correct patent number but referenced application No. 10/323,473, which is a reissue of the subject application. The misidentification of the application number may have resulted in a delay in matching this petition with the correct application file.

regarding this patent will be mailed solely to the address of record. If petitioner desires to receive future correspondence regarding any Maintenance Fee Reminder which may be mailed concerning this patent, a Fee Address should be submitted to Maintenance Fee Division.

The file is being forwarded to Files Repository.

Telephone inquiries related to this decision should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3231.

*D Wood*

Douglas I. Wood  
Senior Petitions Attorney  
Office of Petitions

cc: DAVID O. CAPLAN  
SNELL & WILMER LLP  
ONE ARIZONA CENTER  
400 EAST VAN BUREN  
PHOENIX AZ 85004-2202